

Program Overview

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is a federal program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The program regulations state the following: “The purpose of the Continuum of Care Program is to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness (<https://www.onecpd.info/coc/>).”

Through the CoC Program, local continuums of care, which are community-based homeless assistance program planning networks, apply for CoC Program grants. The goal is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of coordinated, community-based systems that provide housing and services to the homeless (excerpted/edited from the HEARTH Act).

The Iowa Balance of State CoC

In Iowa, the Balance of State CoC includes most of the state, with the exception of Polk, Dakota/Woodbury, and Pottawattamie Counties. The decision-making body for the Iowa Balance of State CoC is the Iowa Council on Homelessness; the Continuum of Care Committee of the council leads the application process. Any CoC program applicant within the Balance of State that is interested in the program must first submit an application for review by the Continuum of Care Committee and the council; the council then votes on the entire community’s application package to submit to HUD. During this process, the Iowa Finance Authority provides administrative support, including accepting and organizing all the applications for council review, and eventually submitting the council-approved material to HUD.

Eligible Activities:

The Continuum of Care Program includes transitional housing, permanent supportive housing for disabled persons, rapid rehousing, supportive services, and Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS). Eligible costs include Continuum of Care planning activities, acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, leasing, rental assistance, supportive services, operating costs, HMIS, project administrative costs, relocation costs, and indirect costs.

Types of Project Applications Accepted by the Iowa Balance of State CoC in 2014:

- 1) Renewal projects. All renewal projects had the option to reapply for annual funding.

2) New projects:

- a. A Rapid Rehousing or Permanent Supportive Housing project created through voluntary reallocation of an existing renewal project from the same agency.
- b. A new Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, or CoC Planning Project created through the CoC's reallocation of unspent funds from all agencies during the most recently completed program year. After adjustments on 9/23/14, the amount available was \$18,428. This new project option could be combined with new project option (a) above.
- c. A new Permanent Supportive Housing Bonus Project. Total amount possibly available for one project was up to \$1,057,670.

The Tier Rankings in 2014:

HUD requires communities to rank project applications into two tiers, based on dollar amounts. The dollar amount of Tier 1 is the total amount of all funding for renewal projects, minus 2%. For the Iowa Balance of State CoC, the amount available in Tier 1 = \$4,589,378 (\$4,683,039 - \$93,661). To meet the required 2% cut, the Iowa Council on Homelessness voted on September 19, 2014, to follow two strategies: first, to reduce the funding amounts for renewal projects that did not expend all funds during the past year (based on most recently submitted HUD Annual Performance Reports); second, to place the lowest-scoring renewal project from the 2013 competition into Tier 2.

Project Application Scoring Process and Timeline in 2014:

Renewal projects were required to submit applications in HUD's Esnaps online system by October 3, 2014. New projects were required to submit Narrative Applications outside of Esnaps by the same date. Renewals were not scored in 2014, but were subject to review to ensure all Esnaps requirements and funding restrictions were followed. New projects were reviewed and scored by the Continuum of Care Committee of the Iowa Council on Homelessness. Based on this review, recommendations are made to the council for a special meeting on October 10, 2014. Projects have an opportunity to appeal any decision of the Iowa Council on Homelessness, by submitting an appeal to the council's Executive Committee for review by October 17, 2014 (full details of the appeal process are detailed in the Iowa Balance of State Continuum of Care 2014 CoC New Project Application instructions).

All rankings and recommended funding amounts are based on the assumption that projects meet all requirements of HUD's Esnaps application. Most renewal projects have submitted all required materials. Projects are subject to review, and adjustments or changes may be requested by the Iowa Finance Authority, on behalf of the Iowa Council on Homelessness, to meet all requirements. All project applicants (including new and renewal) must submit any additional required application components in time for the community application materials to be submitted to HUD by the planned date of Monday, October 27, 2014. An earlier internal deadline for some or all materials may be established by the Iowa Council on Homelessness.

Executive Summary: 2014 Iowa Balance of State Continuum of Care Application

Recommended Project Ranking and Funding

CoC Project Ranking Submission to HUD:

Typically, the CoC must review and approve an entire Consolidated Application to submit to HUD. Because HUD combined some aspects of the 2013 and 2014 application, HUD didn't require a new Consolidated Application in 2014. Instead, HUD is requiring only the Project Rankings, along with a new Chronically Homeless Prioritization list for Permanent Supportive Housing projects.

Approval of this Executive Summary:

Approval of this Executive Summary for the 2014 Iowa Balance of State Continuum of Care Application, Recommended Project Ranking and Funding, will authorize the Iowa Finance Authority to submit the required CoC Project Ranking and related application materials HUD on behalf of the CoC. Additional minor adjustments and edits may be made to the application materials after the Executive Summary is approved, as necessary to meet HUD requirements.

Recommended Project Ranking and Funding:

Tier 1							
Applicant Name	Project Name	Project Type	Application Status (Renewal, New, or Reallocated)	Admin Amount Allowed (no more than 7%)	Total 2014 Allowed Funding	Renewal Score (from 2013)	Rank
YWCA Clinton	YWCA Rapid Rehousing Program	Rapid Rehousing	New/ Reallocated	\$4,206	\$68,598	N/A	1
Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc.	Housing First	Permanent Housing	Renewal	\$3,280	\$65,361	54.3	2
Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc.	Service Coordination through Collaboration - Permanent Housing	Permanent Housing	Renewal	\$8,000	\$138,227	52.7	3
Mason City Housing Authority	MCHA Shelter Plus Care	Permanent Housing	Renewal	\$7,095	\$101,354	52.7	4
Cedar Valley Friends of the Family	Northeast Iowa Permanent Housing Program	Permanent Housing	Renewal	\$12,696	\$196,930	51.7	5

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Community Corrections Improvement Association	Home to Stay, CHoOSE	Permanent Housing	Renewal	\$4,812	\$75,456	51	6
Vera French Reach 2000	Reach 2000	Permanent Housing	Renewal	\$2,347	\$36,245	49.3	7
Iowa Institute for Community Alliances	Iowa's Continuum Outcome and Universal Needs Toolkit (BOS HMIS)	HMIS	Renewal	\$16,865	\$257,770	46.8	8
Iowa Institute for Community Alliances	Iowa's Continuum Outcome and Universal Needs Toolkit (BOS HMIS Expansion)	HMIS	Renewal	\$5,810	\$88,810	46.8	9
City of Dubuque	Phoenix Housing Shelter Plus Care	Permanent Housing	Renewal	\$3,931	\$75,103	46	10
Community Housing Initiatives, Inc.	Permanent Housing	Permanent Housing	Renewal	\$6,766	\$98,009	44	11
Cedar Valley Friends of the Family	Turning Point Rural Housing Project	Transitional Housing	Renewal	\$16,996	\$261,658	43.7	12
Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Inc.	HUD V	Transitional Housing	Renewal	\$14,255	\$217,900	43.3	13
Youth and Shelter Services	New Hope Transitional Living Program	Transitional Housing	Renewal	\$8,589	\$132,205	43	14
Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Inc.	HUD II	Transitional Housing	Renewal	\$31,078	\$475,054	42.7	15
Youth and Shelter Services	Lighthouse Transitional Living Program	Transitional Housing	Renewal	\$12,672	\$194,737	42	16
Humility of Mary Housing, Inc.	REACH 2000: Renewed Efforts and Commitment for Housing 2000	Transitional Housing	Renewal	\$2,503	\$38,047	40.7	17

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Crisis Intervention Services	Pathway 2 Independence	Transitional Housing	Renewal	\$2,411	\$36,855	40	18
Community Housing Initiatives, Inc.	Transitional Housing	Transitional Housing	Renewal	\$9,302	\$227,288	39.3	19
Crisis Intervention & Advocacy Center	STAARS	Transitional Housing	Renewal	\$10,594	\$161,945	38	20
Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc.	Service Coordination through Collaboration for Transitional Housing	Transitional Housing	Renewal	\$29,440	\$445,169	37	21
The Salvation Army	Men's Transitional Housing Program	Transitional Housing	Renewal	\$6,597	\$94,241	36.7	22
Shelter House Community Shelter and Transition Services	Supported Training and Access to Resources (STAR) Program	Supportive Services Only	Renewal	\$29,887	\$456,857	35	23
Area Substance Abuse Council, dba. New Directions	Hightower Place Women and Childrens Transitional Program	Transitional Housing	Renewal	\$6,948	\$106,208	35	24
Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Inc.	Cedar Rapids Chronically Homeless Project	Supportive Services Only	Renewal	\$1,783	\$27,259	33.7	25
Opening Doors	Maria House	Supportive Services Only	Renewal	\$2,814	\$43,025	32.5	26
Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc.	Service Coordination through Collaboration - Supportive Services Only	Supportive Services Only	Renewal	\$13,220	\$212,022	32.1	27
Project Concern	24 Hour Homeless Hotline/Homeless Coordinator	Supportive Services Only	Renewal	\$1,040	\$14,855	30.7	28

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Family Resources, Inc.	Reach 2000 Family Resources	Transitional Housing	Renewal	\$1,771	\$35,859	28.7	29
Hillcrest Family Services	Hopes Project	Transitional Housing	Renewal	\$3,306	\$61,303	24.7	30
Family Alliance for Veterans of America	<i>(New project in 2013; therefore not ranked as a renewal)</i>	Permanent Housing	Renewal	\$9,487	\$145,029	N/A	31
Tier 1 Total					\$4,589,378		

Tier 2							
Manasseh House	Operation Empower	Supportive Services Only	Renewal	\$5,255	\$80,160	24	32
Tier 2 Total					\$80,160		